

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6210

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, IT

SUBJ: ITALIAN CP SECRETARY GENERAL BERLINGUER VISITS POLAND

1. ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL ENRICO BERLINGUER ENDED A 4-DAY VISIT TO POLAND ON DEC. 3 AND DEPARTED BY AIR FOR BERLIN. BERLINGUER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ITALIAN CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERGIO SEGRE AND ANTONIO TATO. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BERLINGUER HAD A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH PZPR FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD GIEREK. PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIES BABIUCH, SZLACHCIC, AND LUKASZEWICZ TOOK PART IN THE MEETINGS, AS DID PZPR CC FOREIGN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR FRELEK.

2. A LENGTHY JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS PUBLISHED IN TRYBUNA LUDU ON DECEMBER 4. A TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT WILL BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ROME FOR PURPOSES OF COMPARISON WITH WHATEVER IS PUBLISHED IN L'UNITA.

3. THE ITALIAN CHARGE TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE WAS STRUCK BY THREE THINGS IN THE COMMUNIQUE. THE FIRST WAS THAT THE REFERENCES TO EUROPE WERE SPARSE, EXCEPT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CSCE, INDICATING THAT THERE WAS LESS THAN COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE PART OF THE POLES WITH THE ITALIAN PARTY'S POSITION ON WESTERN EUROPE. SECONDLY, THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED A CLEAR ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATE ROADS

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TO SOCIALISM. AND THIRDLY, THERE WAS A STATEMENT

EXPRESSING THE JOINT DESIRE OF BOTH PARTIES TO SEEK BROAD AGREEMENT AND COMMON ACTION BETWEEN COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, AND CATHOLICS IN "LIBERATING THE WORLD FROM IMPERIALISM, AND THE THREAT OF WAR" AND GUARANTEEING THE FULL RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO FREEDOM AND LIBERTY, AS WELL AS BUILDING A WORLD SOCIETY BASED ON JUSTICE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE FORMULATION EXPRESSING A DESIRE FOR A COMMON FRONT OF COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS AND CATHOLICS. WHILE APPARENTLY NOT A NEW POSITION FOR THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, IT HAS NOT BEEN THE PRACTICE OF THE PZPR LEADERSHIP TO EXPRESS A DESIRE TO WORK TOWARDS A POLITICAL GOAL WITH THE CATHOLICS AS A POLITICAL GROUPING, AS THIS FORMULATION CLEARLY DOES. ALTHOUGH GIEREK AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POLISH LEADERSHIP HAVE AT VARIOUS TIMES CALLED UPON ALL POLES, "REGARDLESS OF THEIR OUTLOOK UPON THE WORLD", TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF POLAND, THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF A PREVIOUS CALL BY THE PZPR LEADERSHIP FOR A COMMON FRONT OF COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS AND CATHOLICS.

5. THE COMMUNIQUE'S ENDORSEMENT OF SEPARATE ROADS TO SOCIALISM IS ALL THE MORE INTERESTING IN VIEW OF THE ABSENCE OF ANY MENTION OF THE SOVIET PARTY OR NOD TO THE SOVIET UNION AS THE LEADING SOCIALIST STATE.
DAVIES

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